

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

other names/site number Borden Hotel, Borden's Café

2. Location

state	MT	code	MT	county	Jefferson	code	043	zip code	59759
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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

4. National Park Service Certification

Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce/Trade: restaurant, bar

DOMESTIC: hotel

SOCIAL: Meeting Hall

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce/Trade: specialty store

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American

Movements: Western Commercial

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: BRICK

COMPOSITE/MEMBRANE;WOOD/

roof: SHAKE

other: METAL/chimney, fire escape, awnings

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

Originally constructed in 1913, the Modern Hotel is a classic two-story, two-part Western Commercial brick building. It stands on the southwest corner of Legion Avenue (formally Railroad Street) and Main Street, north of the railroad tracks in downtown Whitehall. Both Legion and Main are major downtown arterials and have always been important to Whitehall's downtown business corridor. Legion Avenue in particular is one of Whitehall's first streets and historically was the town's center of commerce and social activity from its earliest days in the late nineteenth century through much of the twentieth century. As US Highway 10 traverses the community via Legion Avenue, this street is also busy with traffic in and out of town.

With its main façade (south) on Legion Avenue, the Modern Hotel, renamed the Borden Hotel in 1933 after hotel proprietor Hilda Borden, remains an anchor building in the oldest section of Whitehall and one of the oldest extant brick commercial buildings in town.¹ The building retains its original design, including elements that date to its original construction as well as those associated with historic additions from 1919, 1929, and 1941. Prominent Montana architect Fred Willson's designs for both the 1929 and 1941 additions are at once distinguishable and compatible, reflecting, in a modest manner, evolving trends in design through the first half of the twentieth century. The building's location, design, setting, materials, and style ensure its sound integrity as an historic property.²

The approximately 10,000-square foot Modern Hotel is wide and deep, dominating a quarter of one city block. The two primary elevations face south and east, with secondary exterior walls on the north and west sides of the building. The building is adjacent to the Roper Lanes and Lounge to the north and an empty lot to the west. Standing as the block's anchor building, the Modern Hotel is also one of the most substantial historic buildings in downtown Whitehall.

Narrative Description

1913 Hotel

The original, rectangular, two-story brick building, constructed in 1913, occupies the corner of Legion Avenue and Main Street, and features a flat roof with a corbelled parapet capped with metal flashing. The parapet wraps around the south and east elevations. Except where in-filled, all original, wood-frame windows remain. A 45-degree canted wall provides a unique quality to the building's original main entrance at the southwest corner. It features a single, modern metal door and arched, in-filled transom at the first story, balanced by a single, large, arched, one-over-one double hung window at the second story. Triple rowlock-courses define both arches. A flat, semicircular metal awning shades the entrance.

South elevation

The original building's south elevation features two large openings at the first story. The east opening contains a large four-light window (three narrow lights to the west and a single large pane to the east), topped by eight, vertically-divided, evenly-spaced transom lights. The west opening contains a single, large, picture window on either side of a centered, modern, hollow core entry door. The east window and the door each have a single transom light across their width, and there are four evenly-spaced, vertically divided lights above the west window. Deep, corrugated, metal awnings shade each of the openings. The original building's south elevation displays four evenly-spaced arched window openings across its second story. As with the window and door on the canted wall, three rowlock brick courses define each window arch. The two openings at the center contain a pair of one-light casements beneath a three-light transom. Single, one-over-one double-hungs fill the east and west window openings.

¹ "Hilda Borden," *Whitehall Centennial 1890-1900*, 28.

² Language for this introduction derived from Alison LaFever, "L&L Building Nomination," (revised August 2002), section 7, page 1.

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East elevation

The 1913 hotel's other primary elevation faces east onto Main Street. Here all openings feature triple rowlock-coursed arches. At the first story, a single, truncated window opening, in-filled with brick, is set off-center to the south. Off-center to the north, a single metal door with one-light transom above provides entry to the bar area. Proceeding north, plywood fills two full-sized window openings, followed by a single, vintage, one-light wood door topped with a one-light transom. The westernmost door leads to a stairwell to the second floor. Five, evenly-spaced, single, one-over-one double-hungs fill the hotel's second story.

North elevation

The north elevation has no openings, but a wood-frame shed extension, open only on its west side, fills the first story's west end.

West elevation

The original building's west elevation is visible only at its north side, where a two-light metal storm door covers the original, one-light, three panel entry door at the first story. Within the north third of the second story are two, single, evenly-spaced, arched one-over-one double-hungs.

1919 Addition

North elevation

In 1919, Lot Borden, the building's original owner, ordered a new, brick, one-story addition to the 1913 building's west end, adding two more storefronts on the first level fronting Legion Avenue. Each storefront has two, commanding, picture windows flanking centered entrances. Although neither of the doors appears to be original, both protect canted, recessed bay entries that reinforce the historic character of the building. Original, vertically-divided, four-light transoms top each window on the west storefront. The door also features a four-light transom as well as plywood in-filled sidelights. The east storefront displays the same design, although the transoms are single lights, and a corrugated, deep metal awning shades the width of the opening. Above the storefronts but below the 1941 second story addition, the elevation features a series of four wide, shallow, recessed brick panels decorated with a stepped pattern at their corners.

North elevation

Brick continues along the north elevation where two arched windows defined by double rowlock courses hang alternatively with two arched doors defined by triple rowlock courses. The wood doors, the first of which bears three panels painted green and white with a window set above, provide rear entrances to the commercial spaces inside. The first window, east of the first door, is in-filled while the second window to the west is a large, rectangular, one-over-one double hung. The roof is flat with a white, metal eave. Stucco covers the brick toward the west end of this elevation.

West elevation

The west elevation is also brick, although the stucco from the north elevation extends around the building and covers most of the north end of this exterior wall. An in-filled, arched door, again distinguished by double rowlock courses, is centered on the wall while another set of double rowlock courses define the arch above a second in-filled door to the south. A cellar entry located immediately south and just north of the 1929 addition cuts into the concrete foundation.

1929 Addition

Lot's widow, Hilda, further extended the west end of the building in 1929 when another one-story brick addition in the 1920s Craftsman style was built to serve as her living quarters. This portion of the building, known now as The Gingerbread House, is not aligned with the main storefronts on Legion Avenue, but is set back from the sidewalk and remains a one-story component. The Gingerbread House also dons its own distinctive cedar-shake, hipped roof with exposed rafter tails.

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South elevation

The 1929 addition contains its own entrance through a three-panel, black-painted wood door, set within the south elevation's west side and tripled, six-over-six double-hung windows to the east. The door and window openings' lintels display a single brick soldier course set in a fanciful chevron pattern.

North elevation

The north elevation bears no openings, but the top half is cream-painted plywood with similarly painted wood trim while the lower half is brick. The hipped, cedar shake roof with exposed rafter tails is visible from this side.

West elevation

An off-center three-over-three casement window on the north end of the west elevation is set in cream-painted plywood that continues from the top half of the north elevation. South of this window, the west elevation features a wood door and tripled, six-over-six double hung windows, both with the same cream-painted wood trim. The remaining exterior wall is brick, showing its age through discoloration. This addition's hipped cedar shake roof with exposed rafter tails remains visible as it extends around this side of the building.

1941 Addition

In 1941, the second story of the original building was also extended to the west, over the 1919 addition to complete the building's overall two-story, two-part commercial design. Like the original portion of the building, the 1941 addition features a flat roof adorned with a parapet and five, large evenly-placed double-hung windows across the second story. However, subtle differences distinguish Willson's mid-century design, including darker red brick, rectangular windows, and recessed brick panels that reference those on the 1919 addition, and a crisp, stepped parapet.

North elevation

The north elevation is stucco with four large rectangular one-over-one double hung windows, with two paired in the center of the elevation. The roof is flat and capped with metal flashing.

West elevation

The non-stuccoed west elevation contains two rectangular one-over-one double-hung windows positioned at the north and south ends of the wall. An in-filled door centered in the elevation steps out onto a green metal landing and fire escape staircase cascading down over the roof and south elevation of the 1929 addition. The roof is again flat with a modest parapet capped with barbed metal flashing.

Interior

On the interior, the first level floor plan follows clearly defined spaces. From east to west, the building flows from the bar, to the hotel lobby, to the restaurant. The 1929 addition is accessible from the restaurant via the kitchen and storage area at the north end of this space. The bar, which occupies most of the original first level, can be entered from outside through the southeast corner or the east wall, just north of the wrap-around veneer bar. Immediately to the left of the east entrance is an interior door leading to a walk-in freezer with access to the iceboxes in the cabinetry behind the bar. The 2500-square foot bar is a large open space with modern finishes, a dropped panel ceiling, raised stage areas on the west and north walls, and a fireplace in the northwest corner of the room. A hall leading to additional storage, restrooms, and stairs to the original second story cuts into the north wall. The space retains original built-in wood cabinetry on the east wall behind the bar and wainscoting and plaster walls along the north end hallway. The original narrow doorway on the west wall leads to the hotel lobby, the east end of the 1919 addition.

The 950-square foot hotel lobby is another open space with some modern finishes, including wallpaper over lath and plaster walls, acoustic tile over the ceiling, and unframed mirrors running along the west wall. However, the lobby also features two-inch quarter-sawn oak floors, a commanding wood staircase up the east wall, stained wood trim around the entrances, windows, and mirrors, and a canted entry bay in between the storefront windows on the south wall leading to the exterior door on Legion Avenue. A parlor is located in the northwest corner of the space and restrooms and closet are in the northeast corner. The building continues to flow west through a glass door framed in wood leading to the restaurant at the southwest corner of the lobby.

The restaurant, also measuring 950 square feet, is an open space for dining, with a bar on the north wall. Again, modern finishes are found, including applied painted brick on the upper walls, an acoustic-panel dropped ceiling, and white

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linoleum flooring. Two large Roman-arched mirrors side-by-side behind the bar on the north wall and stained wood wainscoting on the east and west walls are likely originally features of the space. Like the hotel lobby, the south wall's storefront windows are divided by a canted recessed entry bay leading to the exterior door on Legion Avenue. A curtained doorway in the northeast corner leads to a small storage space while an interior door in the northwest corner leads to a larger storage area, which is the east half of the original kitchen and has celotex and stainless steel walls, red linoleum floors, and a drop ceiling with fluorescent lighting. The rest of the original kitchen is accessed through an interior door on the west wall. This space remains set up as a kitchen, as it includes stainless steel counter space for food preparation and a refrigerator on the south wall, more space for food preparation and an oven on the north wall, and a stainless steel sink on the west wall. Similarly modern finishes from the storage area continue into the kitchen. An interior door on the west wall leads to the 1929 addition.

The 1929 addition measures 264 square feet and features its original tripled, six over six double hung windows framed in wood with 3 ½-inch trim adjacent to exterior doors on both the south and west walls. Six-inch baseboards surround the room above the three-inch tongue and groove, wood floors while plaster covers the ceiling and walls. On the east wall, shelving covers an original paneled door (probably a closet), but a ½ bath and shower closet featuring their original paneled doors are accessible. Since the space is currently used as an ice cream parlor and soda shop, the north wall has a fountain station with an island in front that features a bead board base and a wood countertop protected underneath glass.

Although the second story of the original 1913 building served initially as a dance hall above the bar, the space was converted to a hotel in 1916.³ As noted above, in 1941, the second story was extended to the west, adding nine guest rooms to the hotel. Staircases from the north end of the bar and the east wall of the hotel lobby allow access to the hotel, which originally included eleven boarding rooms. Two of the these rooms are located at the top of the original north staircase from which a short hall extends south into a large common area opening through a wood framed half-wall divider that bears modestly tapered craftsman style columns. All of the rooms are comparable in size and design, featuring high paneled ceilings, paneled wood doors, wood trimmed baseboards, door jams, windows, and windowed-transoms as well as closets and sinks, although some have their own half-bathrooms. Most of this space is carpeted, but some rooms show their original two-inch quarter-sawn wood floors.

A hall that extends from the west wall of the original hotel's common area provides access to the hotel's 1941 addition, but first meets a short wrap-around staircase arriving from the hotel lobby below. The addition flows west down a long hall with five rooms on the south side and four on the north side, all fairly standard with private half-bathrooms and shared walk-through shower baths in between. The first room on the south side, however, is a little bigger with a private bath. The doors on all of these rooms are stained wood with vintage brass and stainless knobs and faceplates, modest paneling and solid wood, bottom-hinged, hopper style transoms. Carpet covers the three-inch tongue and groove wood floors while vintage linoleum and ceramic tile decorate the bathrooms.

The Modern Hotel demonstrates that a large commercial building comprised of separate spaces for multiple functions can be expressed as a single integrated unit. Its historic exterior and interior architectural features remain intact, bringing cohesion to the property and allowing it to retain a high degree of historic integrity. The site, setting, and overall architectural character of the building validate the Modern Hotel's significance as an historic property and render it worthy of listing in the National Register of Historic Places.⁴

³ Roy E. Millegan, "Hilda Borden," *Whitehall Centennial, 1890-1990*, 28.

⁴ Language for this conclusion derived from Alison LaFever and Maisie Sulser, "Oliver Building Nomination," (revised August 2002), section 7, page 2.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Commerce

Community Development

Period of Significance

1913 - 1961

Significant Dates

1913 – Original construction

1919, 1929, 1941 – Additions

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

1913 - Unknown

1919 – Unknown

1929, 1941 – Fred Willson

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance for the Modern Hotel is 1913-1961. The significance of 1913 corresponds to its date of construction. The close, 1961, marks the construction of Interstate 90 through Montana, and the consequential shift of commerce from downtown Whitehall to the north. This shift, together with the eventual loss of passenger trains in the early 1970s, saw the decline of the Modern Hotel as a hub for travelers.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Modern Hotel is directly associated with the initial period of downtown Whitehall's development that followed the arrival of the Northern Pacific and Montana Railroad's Butte Short Line in June 1890 and the town's official founding just two months later. With the arrival of the Short Line, Whitehall quickly grew to become a trade center. It served as a supply point for the many mining camps already scattered in the vicinity as well as a shipping point for the livestock and agricultural industries in the surrounding Jefferson Valley. Downtown Whitehall experienced rapid growth and development throughout the 1890s and continued into the early twentieth century, especially in the area located along the railroad tracks on Legion Avenue (formerly Railroad Street). The commercial area adjacent to the railroad tracks along and perpendicular to Legion Avenue was the first area in the community to develop, with businesses dependent upon or directly related to the railroad and the transportation of goods throughout the region. Hotels, restaurants, saloons, and stores concentrated in downtown Whitehall, and Legion Avenue in particular became one of the town's main streets for businesses and entertainment. The buildings erected in these first years after Whitehall's establishment were mostly wood frame, many which were lost to fires and later replaced with more stable and substantial brick buildings. Originally built in 1913, the Modern Hotel was one of the earliest two-story brick commercial buildings in downtown Whitehall, representing the second generation of the community's early building forms and types as well as the Western Commercial architectural style typical of the day. The Modern Hotel is also significant for its 1919, 1929, and 1941 additions, of which the latter two reflect evolving trends in architectural design during the first half of the twentieth century through the vision of Fred Willson, one of Montana's premiere architects.

While the downtown area became home to significant businesses that provided much needed everyday goods like groceries and general merchandise, many of the businesses that developed along Legion Avenue, like the Modern Hotel, specifically catered to the railroads and their passengers. Eventually, these businesses shifted their focus to cross-country travelers in cars and trucks. As early highways often followed existing rail lines across the country, Legion Avenue was the logical arterial for US Highway 10 to pass through Whitehall. In addition to offering lodging, the Modern Hotel's first floor commercial spaces accommodated rail and auto traffic with its restaurant and bar from the time it was built through May 1971 when Hilda Borden, widow of original owner Lot Borden, died at 91. In this way, the Modern Hotel strongly fits the historic context of its surrounding area through much of the twentieth century. The hotel's period of significance spans from 1913 to the early 1960s when Interstate 90 was built just north of Whitehall, bypassing town and leading to a sharp decline in visitor traffic and commercial activity downtown. The Modern Hotel retains a high degree of integrity as both a historically and architecturally significant property. The building conveys its original design, including elements that date to its original construction as well those associated with historic additions in 1919, 1929, and 1941. It is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its clear association with the commercial and development history of Whitehall and Criterion C for its representation of the early twentieth century Western Commercial architectural style common to commercial buildings in downtown Whitehall, few of which have survived into the contemporary era.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Nestled in the fertile Jefferson Valley of southwestern Montana, the land on which the Modern Hotel stands felt the presence of humans since prehistoric peoples first made their way into what is now Montana more than 12,000 years ago. Over the following thousands of years, major changes in climate forced new adaptations among these hunters and gatherers that resulted in the gradual emergence of hundreds of Native American cultural groups throughout the continent. In Montana, Plateau Indians, including ancestors of the Salish, occupied the landscape while pressures resulting from direct and indirect contact with North America's more recent European immigrants over 500 years ago brought many new indigenous groups into the region after 1600. Although no one group claimed the Whitehall area as its homeland, different groups, including the Shoshone, Nez Perce, Blackfeet, and Crow Indians, passed through seasonally and used the area as a hunting ground. By the late eighteenth century, the Blackfeet had established their homeland on the eastern slopes of the Rockies, reaching deep into north-central and southern Montana, just north of Whitehall's town site.⁵

⁵ Michael P. Malone, Richard B. Roeder, and William L. Lang, *Montana: A History of Two Centuries* (Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 1991), revised edition, 3-16; K. Ross Toole, *Montana: An Uncommon Land* (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1959), 117-120.

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Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, and their Corps of Discovery were the first non-Indians to visit the Jefferson Valley, leaving behind the earliest written records that describe the region. Both Lewis and Clark passed through the Whitehall area in 1805 on their westward journey and Clark revisited after the Corps separated on its return in 1806. In the summer of 1805, an ailing Clark sent Lewis and others from the main party ahead of the expedition as they left the headwaters of the Missouri River and Three Forks area. Lewis and his crew named the river they followed into the valley after President Thomas Jefferson, "author of [their] enterprise."⁶ Also during the group's ascent of the Jefferson toward the valley, Sacajawea reportedly spotted the camp where Gros Ventres Indians had captured her and several others four years earlier. As he tracked the source of the Jefferson, Lewis passed through the Whitehall area. A day or two behind Lewis, Clark traveled along Whitetail Creek, where more than sixty years later settlers would establish the first stage station and post office four miles north of Whitehall's actual town site. The Lewis and Clark Expedition's significance to our national history is well known, but it also important to the local histories of places like Whitehall along the Expedition's trail.⁷

Exactly when the first settlers reached the Whitehall area remains uncertain, but appears to occurred in the 1860s amid the Montana Gold Rush. The rush to Montana was part of a larger population movement that crisscrossed much of the Mountain West and, as happened in other areas, lost its momentum within only a few years as the easy diggings tapped out quickly. Prospectors and farmers fanned from early mining districts like Alder Gulch, approximately sixty miles south of Whitehall, with new discoveries continuing throughout southwestern Montana. Although Whitehall did not formally organize as a town until 1890 shortly after the railroad arrived, the lure of potential gold deposits and the economic opportunities that accompanied such discoveries brought the first handful of families into the area by mid-decade. Such early entrepreneurs included John Tebay and his brother, William. Like so many others looking to make their fortunes in the West at this time, the Tebay brothers hailed from Illinois, arriving in Virginia City near Alder Gulch in 1864. They tried their luck at mining for gold and silver but failed to cash in and thus turned to other enterprises. The Tebays homesteaded southeast of Whitehall and found success in cattle ranching. By the time he died in 1903, John was a prominent member of the community who owned a number of properties in town, including the future site of the Modern Hotel.⁸

Families continued to trickle into the area and the Old Whitehall Stage Station, initially called Milk Ranch, was built on Whitetail Creek at the H.H. Houghton Ranch in 1867. The wood frame building on the stage line from Virginia City to Helena also housed the post office. After an impatient stage driver threw yet another heavy mail bag through the window one day in 1868, Mr. Houghton persuaded another prominent cattleman, Major E.G. Brooke, "to take over the post office with its responsibilities and annoyances."⁹ As he did not care for the name Milk Ranch, Major Brooke changed it to Whitehall because the big white building reminded him of a house he had visited in Whitehall, Illinois on his way westward. Major Brooke and his family also owned the land that the Northern Pacific and Montana Railroad would need twenty years later when they came into the area. The Brookes sold the railroads 45 acres to accommodate the necessary 100-foot right-of-way as well as additional land to accommodate a roundhouse and industrial area for \$777.¹⁰

Whitehall was different than many of the numerous cities and towns in southwestern Montana that emerged from the dash to gold throughout the late nineteenth-century. Most were dependent upon placer mining, a soon-exhausted industry that led many of these communities to die out nearly as quickly as they were built. Only exceptional places like Butte transitioned into the kind of large scale industrial mining that could sustain a community long term. Although placer mining played a role in Whitehall's early settlement, it was surrounded by lands well-suited for agriculture and stock-raising and thus became a small trading center. In Montana, such communities were able to survive the boom and bust cycle of the mining frontier while waiting for the railroads to breathe new life and permanence into them.¹¹

⁶ Gary Getz, "Lewis & Clark – Their Travels from Three Forks to Twin Bridges," *Whitehall Centennial, 1890-1990*, 2; quotation from Reuben Gold Thwaites, ed., *Original Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition* (New York, 1904), Volume 2, Chapter x111, 296 and 302, as noted in Getz.

⁷ Thwaites, Volume 2, Chapter x111, 286, as cited in Getz; Tom Fellows, *Whitehall and the Jefferson Valley, From 1865-1925* (no publisher or date of publication listed, but author's introduction suggests ca. 2004), 11.

⁸ Malone, et al., 64-67; Fellows, 10, 23, 44; Helen Fitzgerald Sanders, *A History of Montana*, Volume 2 (Chicago, IL: Lewis Publishing Company, 1913), 929.

⁹ Lulu Lee (Brooke) Stanley, "Old Whitehall," *Whitehall Centennial*, 8.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*; Roy E. Millegan, "Town of Whitehall – the Beginning," *Whitehall Centennial*, 1.

¹¹ Gregory L. Gordon, "Money Does Grow on Trees: A.B. Hammond and the Age of the Timber Baron," (Ph.D. diss., University of Montana, 2010), 103; Malone, et al., 68.

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The Northern Pacific Railroad finally completed its east-west transcontinental line running through Montana in 1883, nineteen years after Abraham Lincoln signed into law the grant that handed the company more than 44 million acres to build a line from Minnesota to Oregon. The idea of a railroad spanning the continent to link the Mississippi Valley to the Pacific Coast had deep roots pre-dating the Civil War, but once the South seceded from the Union in 1861, Congress moved quickly to make it happen. After the Union Pacific-Central Line completed its track from Omaha to Sacramento in 1869, unconnected states and territories pushed for rail lines to serve them. With 17 million of the Northern Pacific's 44 million acres in Montana Territory, residents looked forward to the growth and prosperity that the railroads would guarantee by providing access to national and international markets and enabling the import of heavy machinery for the developing mining industry. The Northern Pacific began laying track in 1870 and slowly progressed westward until the Panic of 1873 forced the company into receivership and halted construction for six years.¹² Meanwhile, the Utah and Northern, a branch of the Union Pacific, made steady progress with its competing line and beat the Northern Pacific into Montana, reaching its destination – “fabulously rich Butte” – at the end of 1881.¹³

As the Northern Pacific neared completion in 1882-83, its directors entered a pooling arrangement with the Utah and Northern stipulating that the Northern Pacific would stay out of Butte while the Utah and Northern would not try to compete with the Northern Pacific's line through Helena. The agreement ensured that rail rates would remain high, but left the Northern Pacific shut out of the lucrative Butte market. This arrangement, however, fell apart in 1889 when more competition arrived there with the Great Northern Railroad's Montana Central line. That same year the Northern Pacific and Montana Railroad Company started building the Butte Short Line westward from Gallatin City, with the scattered community of Whitehall and the Brooke family's land in its path.¹⁴

The Butte Short Line would require stations or depots every 10 miles, which proved fortuitous for Whitehall. The 1889 land negotiations between the Brookes and the railroads included a stipulation that the depot be named after Major Brooke's stage station up the Whitetail. Major Brooke's son-in-law, Robert Worthington Noble, saw promise in the plans for the new depot and made arrangements for a town site survey just days after Montana became a state in November 1889. For reasons that remain unknown, the resulting plat did not receive official recognition from the state and another survey was done in August 1890. The town of Whitehall was finally recognized the following month. Brooke family members again owned the land. Development started soon after Major Brooke's son and daughter-in-law, Charles and Mary, sold more than 143 acres to Noble and his partner for \$3,000 so they could sell lots for the new town. Streets running north and south were named Noble, Brooke, Stanley (after another Brooke relative), Whitehall, and Main. Railroad (now Legion), First, and Second Streets ran east and west. While Brooke family members bought some of lots within the town's original 13 blocks, local bar owner Harris Winkler purchased Lot 1 of Block 2, where the original Modern Hotel would later stand, for \$80. Winkler had been operating his bar out of a tent, but his purchase in the heart of the new town directly across the street from the railroad tracks was an ideal location to move his business into a building. The wood frame Winkler's Saloon became “a kind of headquarters for all freighters, travelers and the railroaders, who came there to lay their plans for future operations.”¹⁵

As soon as the first trains started coming in June 1890, Whitehall's Railroad Street became a busy railroad center with its coal dock, water tower, section house, and two-stall roundhouse for the helper engines, or “hogs,” that literally helped the trains over the steep pass to Butte. After the town started in September, other businesses immediately moved in downtown as well, including a general merchandise store, meat market, restaurant, hotel, blacksmith shop, and another saloon. Before long three more hotels opened and porters would regularly greet potential guests as they disembarked the trains. Meanwhile, mining continued to open up throughout the surrounding area and agriculture and ranching in and around Whitehall supplied the expanding communities of Butte and Anaconda with garden produce, dairy, oats, and hay.¹⁶

¹² Malone, et al., 172-173; Gordon, 101-104.

¹³ Malone, et al., 175.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 178; Fellows, 63.

¹⁵ Fellow, 73; Millegan, “Town of Whitehall – the Beginning,” 1.

¹⁶ Millegan, “Town of Whitehall – the Beginning,” 1; Author unknown, “Northern Pacific and Montana Railroad,” *Whitehall Centennial, 1890-1990*, 10; Photo caption, *Whitehall Centennial, 1890-1990*, 11.

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The community's position as an important supply and shipping point met an increased demand for more facilities and housing in the mid-1890s. During these early years, many asserted that Whitehall would become "another Butte City."¹⁷

The town continued to grow and develop while other railroad companies speculated in the area, which in turn fueled hope that Whitehall would indeed rival Butte as a crossroads. The Union Pacific, for example, planned to develop a line between Dillon and Helena via the Jefferson Valley. Work on this route began in 1893, heading south out of Whitehall. By January 1894, twenty miles of the roadbed were completed, but within a few months the work had stalled. This line never materialized, nor did proposals by other major railroad companies in subsequent years. The Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad Company filed incorporation papers with Jefferson County in 1906, generating considerable excitement among businessmen over the possibility of a second rail line finally coming through Whitehall. However, perhaps avoiding excessively high land prices or simply opting for an easier route to build on, surveyors elected to bypass Whitehall and established the route one and one-half miles south of town with section houses and depots built in neighboring areas. The Montana Rail Link eventually came into Whitehall and continues to serve the community, but it brings minimal traffic.¹⁸

Although failed proposals and a waning local mining industry effectively dashed hopes that Whitehall would ever become the important rail cross-roads that it aspired to be, transportation continued to help underwrite the economic life of the town into the twentieth century. As the automobile industry exploded in the 1910s and 20s, improvements in roads and the mass production of fuel allowed cars and trucks to provide an attractive alternative for cross-country travel and shipping.¹⁹ Early highway construction often followed the railroads' established routes and passed through the middle of towns and cities along the way. US Highway 10 was no exception. The east-west highway connected to downtown Whitehall, running parallel to the railroad and traversing the community via Railroad Street (now Legion Avenue). In January 1929, the Oswald Taxi Company of Butte, which operated between there and Harrison, brought the first bus into town, a 15-passenger, eight-cylinder vehicle.²⁰ Greyhound bought out Oswald's franchise in 1935, offering service between Bozeman and Butte, with a stop in Whitehall in front of the Modern Hotel.²¹ In fact, the Modern advertised as an official AAA hotel during this period.²² The highway also ushered freighters and tourists into downtown where they often stopped to shop, eat, or stay the night at the places like the Modern Hotel. While Whitehall grew up as a railroad town, the highway ensured that Whitehall's oldest section would remain the hub of commercial and social activity through much of the twentieth century.

The Federal Highway Act of 1956 drastically improved the speed of cross-country travel for cars and trucks throughout the United States, but to the detriment of downtown businesses in small communities like Whitehall. Until the late-1950s, two-lane paved roads that passed through downtowns, such as Highway 10, were the fastest highways. Interest in building a more efficient national road network dates back to the end of WWI, but political pressures and special interests clashed on many basic points and slowed the passing of legislation to fund construction. By the early 1950s, however, the Cold War was in full swing and the movement gained new momentum. The military lobbied for a nationwide network of four-lane highways designed for speed by avoiding downtown traffic, stoplights, and railroad crossings. The law passed in 1956 created the interstate highway system and touched off the biggest public works project in history, which would include Montana but not necessarily Whitehall.²³ Interstate 15 runs north-south, approximately 30 miles west of Whitehall. While east-west Interstate 90 was built much closer to Whitehall, but the highway circumvents town along its northern fringes.

¹⁷ *Jefferson Valley Zephyr*, November 11, 1894, as quoted in Fellows, 95.

¹⁸ Author unknown, "Other Railroads, *Whitehall Centennial, 1890-1990*, 12; Author unknown, "Railroads," *Whitehall Centennial, 1890-1990*, 9-10; "Northern Pacific and Montana Railroad," 10.

¹⁹ Tom McCarthy, *Automania: Cars, Consumers, and the Environment* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2009), chapters one and two.

²⁰ Photo caption, *Whitehall Centennial, 1890-1990*, 21.

²¹ Untitled timeline of the building's history, derived from newspapers on file at the Jefferson Valley Museum, probably compiled by Millegan.

²² *Ibid.*

²³ For a more detailed history and analysis of these developments see Mark H. Rose, *Interstate: Express Highway Politics, 1939-1989* (Lawrence, KS: The Regents Press of Kansas, 1979); <http://mhs.mt.gov/education/textbook/Chapter20/Chapter20.pdf> accessed 6/29/2011.

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As was the case around the country, the new highways funneled traffic away from main drags and cities and towns expanded toward and around the access ramps. Many communities in Montana withered while others limped along or became bedroom communities for nearby cities like Great Falls, Missoula, or Butte.²⁴ Indeed, after Interstate-90 (I-90) was built in the early 1960s, Whitehall experienced a sharp decline in visitor traffic and commercial activity downtown, resulting in many closures. Traffic that previously came down Legion Avenue and perhaps stop at the Modern Hotel or its café, began to pass right by without even a glimpse of downtown visible from the interstate. The arrival of the Golden Sunlight open-pit mine in 1975, located a few miles northeast of town, infused the local economy and currently employs approximately 170 people.²⁵ Downtown, however, continues to struggle while local business leaders work to revitalize this historically significant area and make it vibrant once again.

The Modern Hotel

As noted above, the Modern Hotel was originally constructed in 1913 to serve as a bar and dance hall. Lot Borden purchased the property and its adjacent lots from John Tebay's daughter and her husband in 1912 for \$4,500. The Tebays came into ownership of this prime location in 1891 when Harris Winkler temporarily sold his saloon to John to generate revenue for a new venture. Although Winkler reportedly bought the business back within a few months, Tebay must have retained ownership of the property as his widow and two of his surviving children sold it to his third child, Claire, for \$1 in 1906.²⁶

When Lot Borden purchased the property from Claire Tebay Crow and her husband in 1912, Lot and his wife, Hilda, were relatively new to Whitehall, moving from Kansas sometime after they married in 1899. They had one daughter who died as an infant, and never had more children. Perhaps the loss led Hilda to focus on entrepreneurial pursuits, as the *Montana Sunlight* newspaper noted that "Mrs. L. Borden opened a new restaurant in September of 1910...[that] was to be open day and night and Mrs. Borden's intention was to conduct a first-class place and solicit trade with satisfaction guaranteed."²⁷ The location of this restaurant remains uncertain, but the restaurant she later opened in a "square fronted building" immediately west of the original Modern Hotel was likely an existing business. Nonetheless, the Borden's new building initially served to house Lot's bar and billiard parlor with a dance hall upstairs, opening its doors to the public for the New Year's dance on December 31, 1913. Shortly after, they advertised weekly Saturday evening social dances – admission 75¢; lunch after at Bordens' restaurant.²⁸ The Bordens' quickly became a social hub in downtown Whitehall for locals and newcomers alike.

Like Winkler and other proprietors on the property before them, the Bordens catered to the railroads, serving railroad men, traveling salesmen, and other visitors to the community. Hilda appears to have run her business separately, but prevailing social attitudes about women in the early twentieth century limited her to some degree. With her restaurant right next door, patrons were sent to Lot's bar to pay for their meals because Lot did not want his wife to handle the money. Since it was considered "unlady-like" for a woman to enter a bar, female customers waited at the door for a gentleman to come and take their money in to Lot.²⁹

Within two years, Lot began making plans to convert the dance hall into a hotel and the billiard parlor into a restaurant. The new restaurant likely was intended to replace Hilda's, given the addition Lot ordered a few years later. Regardless, in February 1916, an ad read, "Open, Modern Hotel and Modern Restaurant."³⁰ More changes came in 1919 when the

²⁴ <http://mhs.mt.gov/education/textbook/Chapter14/Chapter14.pdf> accessed 6/29/2011.

²⁵ Barrick Gold Corporation website, <http://www.barrick.com/GlobalOperations/NorthAmerica/GoldenSunlight/default.aspx>, accessed 6/29/11; http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/mt/blm_information/bpsspring09.Par.48597.File.dat/GSM.pdf, accessed 6/29/11; Eve Byron, "Golden Sunlight Mine to Hire 26 Workers," *Missoulian* (Online), November 28, 2010 (http://missoulian.com/business/local/article_44cdb7f2-fbd4-11df-b6a4-001cc4c002e0.html), accessed 6/29/11.

²⁶ Warranty Deeds for Modern Hotel property, 1891, 1906, 1912, on file with the Office of the Clerk and Recorder, Jefferson County, Montana; Sanders, 929.

²⁷ *Montana Sunlight*, as quoted in Fellows, 115 without full citation.

²⁸ Except for the quotation cited above, the information in this paragraph comes from Millegan, "Whitehall of Yesteryear," *Whitehall Ledger*, June 26, 1985; Millegan, "Hilda Borden," *Whitehall Centennial, 1890-1990*, 28.

²⁹ Millegan, "Hilda Borden," 28.

³⁰ *Ibid.*

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Bordens extended the original brick building by adding a one-story component onto the west side for the hotel lobby and restaurant, making it a triple-store, brick business block. The new restaurant was to be truly modern with all new equipment. Lot and Hilda used the lobby space as a cabaret room for a brief time and then in 1920 remodeled it into a comfortable, roomy lobby with an open stairway to the guest rooms above. After Lot died in January 1922, Hilda kept the Modern Hotel and Restaurant open. However, since prohibition precluded her from operating a bar, the Golden Rule store moved into the east end of the building. Before the Prohibition Era ended, the space was also used as a barber shop, an office for the local telephone operators, and as a meeting place for the Women's Club. As a member of the club and prominent businesswoman in the community, Hilda provided work for many at 10¢ an hour or offered a meal or two in exchange for some chore done.³¹

Hilda was also shrewd, seizing the opportunity presented in accommodating hotel guests and boarders on different work schedules. One young man who came to town to go to school chose to live at the hotel his senior year. He learned he was among three guests assigned to the same room, each given an eight-hour period to occupy the room. Most of the hotel's clientele were railroad men, miners, or others working different shifts, enabling Hilda to accommodate many more guests than the hotel's original eleven rooms would otherwise allow. She tried leasing the restaurant on several different occasions – at one point it was called Delmonicos – but always ended up taking it back to run herself. Hilda extended the building further west in 1929 when she built a one-story addition to serve as her living quarters. The new space complemented the main brick, storefronts, but the entrance from Legion Avenue was setback from the sidewalk and the details were more in step with the popular Craftsman style of the 1920s than the earlier Western Commercial style. In 1933, she renamed the Modern Hotel the Borden Hotel and obtained the town's first retail license for beer after the repeal of Prohibition. The Rotary Club started holding its meetings there a year later. Business continued to thrive with the hotel as well, drawing many salesmen who chose to stay there before going into Butte and prompting Hilda to order a final addition to the building. In 1941, Fred Willson's second-story addition to the hotel over the lobby and restaurant was complete.³² Hilda operated the Borden Hotel and its businesses until she died in May 1971 at age 91. Some called her passing the end of an era.³³

Today, the Jefferson Local Development Corporation owns the building, having purchased it in 2010 as part of a larger effort to help restore downtown Whitehall. Most of the building sits unused, except for the 1929 addition, which is now an ice cream parlor and soda shop called the Gingerbread House.

Architectural Context

The Modern Hotel gains additional significance under Criterion C as an important local example of early twentieth century commercial design, particularly as it represents buildings that densely lined the main streets of early twentieth-century Montana's small-towns. As communities throughout the American West came and went with the gold rushes of the previous century, businessmen and investors in railroad towns attempted to provide an impression of stability, permanence, and success to passengers disembarking from the trains. Brick commercial buildings like the Modern Hotel furthered this impression while inviting railroad passengers to patronize their businesses and consider staying in the community. The Modern Hotel's two-story format with commercial areas on the ground level and lodging above reflect the common spatial functions of downtown buildings of the day. Likewise, the main façade's commanding storefront windows on the first level balanced above with neatly arranged double hung windows reflect this trend.

The Modern Hotel is also an example of early twentieth century commercial architecture known generically as the Business Block and, in fact, is often referred to as the "Borden Block" or "Borden's corner" in official documents and among locals. The new, brick, one-story addition to the building's west end in 1919 established the building as a Business Block. With this addition, the first story displayed three separate storefronts, while the hotel rooms occupied the second story of the 1913 building. The west end of the building was further extended in 1929 when a one-story addition was built for widowed Hilda Borden's living quarters, which currently serves as the aforementioned the Gingerbread House. The large double hung windows on both the original second story and the 1941 addition above the 1919 storefront provides ample light to the space and pleasant views, ideal for hotel guests, and completes the overall two-part design.

³¹ *Ibid.*

³² *Ibid.*; untitled timeline of the building's history, derived from newspapers on file at the Jefferson Valley Museum, probably compiled by Millegan.

³³ Millegan, "Hilda Borden," 28.

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As noted above, the Modern Hotel was constructed specifically in the Western Commercial style, familiar to many Montana towns. Western Commercial differs somewhat from the Commercial style in that Western Commercial buildings typically stand less than five stories tall and are more utilitarian in appearance, lacking high style ornamentation. The fenestration is usually uninterrupted and the roofs are flat with moderate cornices, parapets and/or simple corbelling.³⁴ The Modern Hotel retains these features in its evenly placed arched windows with triple rowlock-courses and corbelled parapet capped with metal flashing on the original two-story building. Willson's 1941 addition complements the original structure with its similarly arranged rectangular windows, recessed brick panels, and stepped parapet. At one time, several buildings in downtown Whitehall existed with similar ornamental elements, but the Modern Hotel is one of the few that remain.

Fred Willson

Fred Fielding Willson (November 11, 1877- August 14, 1956) was the architect responsible for the 1929 and 1941 additions to the Modern Hotel. Willson's prominence stems from his role as Bozeman's premiere architect in the early twentieth century. He designed much of Bozeman's historic Main Street and the surrounding area, including all of the community's older schools and several buildings on the campus of Montana State University as well as the Fechter Building, Gallatin County Courthouse, and the Ellen Theatre. He was regarded as a pillar of the community, largely responsible for the look and feel of Bozeman. Many of his buildings are landmarks in the downtown area, but Willson's influence extended beyond Bozeman and many of his buildings are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Willson's work is found throughout Montana, in Warm Springs, Twin Bridges, and Galen as well as Gardiner, Anaconda, Butte, Dillon, and, of course, Whitehall. No one identifiable style is associated with his work, rather Willson's buildings "fit the style of the people who used them," with designs ranging from Georgian and Mission Revival to Craftsman and Art Deco. Drawings for 331 of his projects are held in the Merrill G. Burlingame Special Collections Library at Montana State University, as are his papers.³⁵

Willson was born in Bozeman in 1877. He attended Bozeman public schools and then Montana State College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts until his junior year. Willson then enrolled in Columbia University in New York, where he completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Architecture in 1902. . Willson returned to Montana, working in Helena as chief draftsman for Charles S. Haire until he left for an extended tour of Europe in 1904. In addition to absorbing the rich architectural styles of France, Germany, Switzerland, Britain, and Italy, Willson continued his studies at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. His experiences in Europe heavily influenced the eclectic styles he embraced throughout his career. Upon his return to Montana in 1906, Willson took charge of the Butte office of the renowned Montana firm of Link & Haire, where he worked until 1910 when he left to establish his own firm in Bozeman. In 1928, he joined R.C. Hugenin and George Shanley to start a partnership, headquartered in Butte. Hugenin, previously the state architect, ran the Butte office Shanley operated the Great Falls office, and Willson was in Missoula. In 1932, Willson left the firm and returned to solo-practice, working until his death on August 13, 1956.³⁶

Willson worked on a variety of projects in his 46-year career. In addition to his substantial commissions in Bozeman, Willson also accepted modest projects, like the 1929 and 1941 additions for Hilda Borden's building in Whitehall. His influence on the architectural history of Montana is considerable, adding to the architectural significance of the Modern Hotel.³⁷

³⁴ Delia Hagen and Kate Hampton, "Howland's Garage and Lavina Opera House Draft National Register Nomination," Section 8, page 6 (revised 2003).

³⁵ Jodi Hauser, "Fred Willson: A Modest Man Who Left a Big Mark," April 17, 2011 (www.bozemandailychronicle.com/100/newsmakers/article_f30f2a9c-67b5-11c0-ba92-001cc4c002e0.html, accessed 6/22/11); Diana J. Painter, "Montana Post-World War II Architectural Survey and Inventory," Prepared for the Montana State Historic Preservation Office, 2011; <http://www.lib.montana.edu/collect/spcoll/findaid/2143.php>, accessed 6/22/11.

³⁶ *Ibid.*,

³⁷ *Ibid.*

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Conclusion

The Modern Hotel is historically significant under National Register Criteria A and C under the areas of Commerce, Community Development and Architecture. Completed in 1913, the handsome, two-story, early-twentieth century commercial block commands a major intersection within the core commercial area of historic Whitehall, Montana. With many of its original architectural features intact, the building classically represents the early twentieth century Western Commercial style common throughout the West during this period. It likewise reflects evolving architectural trends later in the first half of the century through the vision of prominent Montana Architect Fred Willson. Historically, the building also relates to the transportation history of Montana specifically and the United States in general and remains one of the strongest extant examples in Whitehall of this historic association.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>12</u> Zone	<u>414635</u> Easting	<u>5080199 (NAD83)</u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing	4	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Modern Hotel is located on the south half of Lots 1, 2, & 3 of Block 2 of the original Town Site of Whitehall of Jefferson County, Montana, according to the official plat thereof on file and of record in the Office of the Clerk and Recorder of said county.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This is the legal boundary description of the property. The boundaries of the property are the city lots that have retained their original property lines since the building was built in 1913.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Doris S. Avery, historical consultant
organization _____ date July 15, 2011
street & number 2118 Gerald Avenue telephone 406-370-6890
city or town Missoula state MT zip code 59801
e-mail havery@bresnan.net

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Please see Continuation Sheets

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Jefferson Local Development Corporation
street & number 309 East Legion Avenue telephone 406-287-3282
city or town Whitehall state MT zip code 59579

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

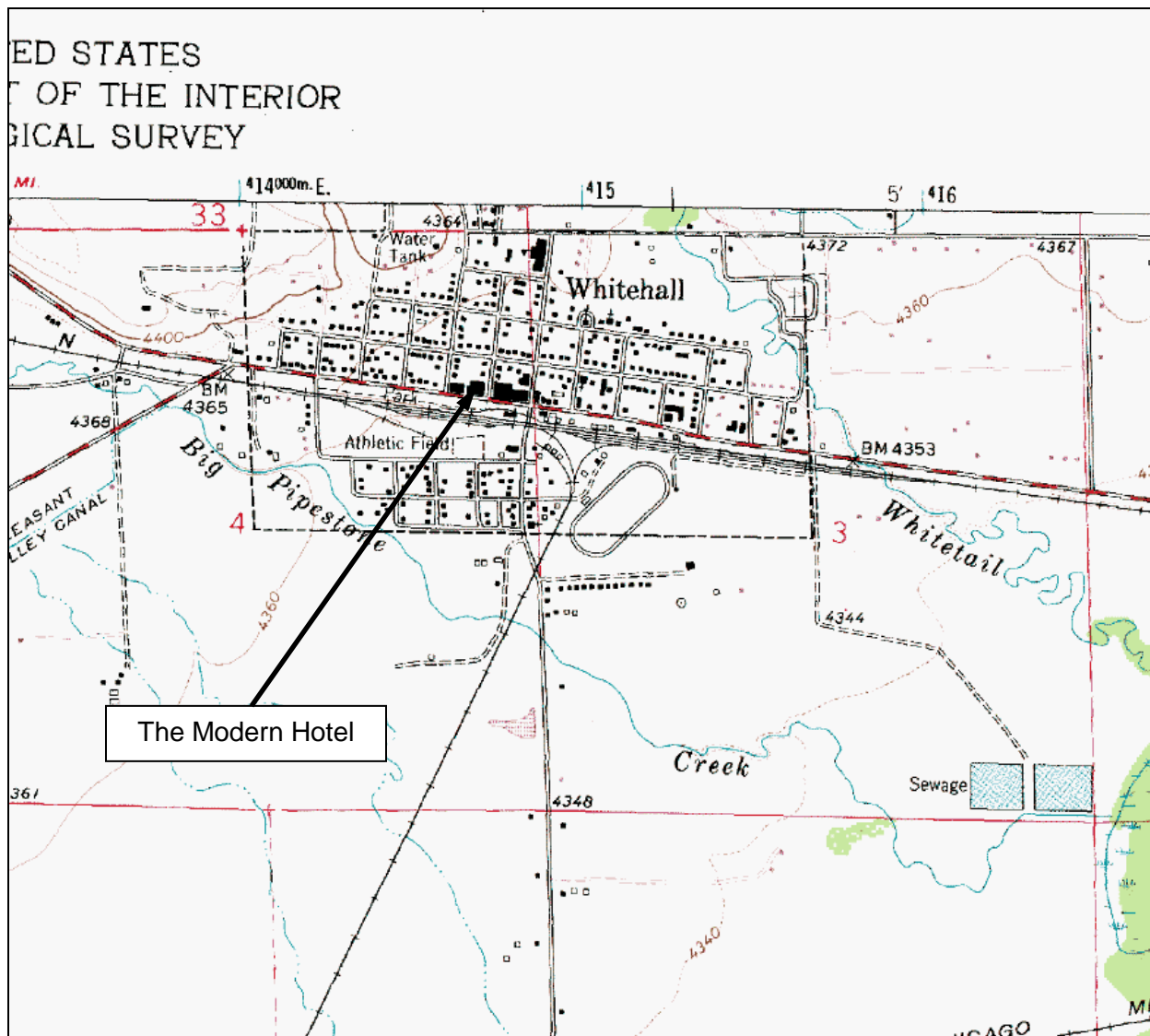
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Section number Maps Page 19



Location of the Modern Hotel; found on the Whitehall, MT 7.5' 1963 topographic map (photorevised 1978).

United States Department of the Interior
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Section number Photographs Page 20

Historic Photographs



Name: Modern Hotel

County and State: Jefferson County, MT

Photographer: Unknown

Date of Photograph: 1918

Location of Original: Jefferson Valley Museum, Digital copy on file at MT SHPO

Description and View: View of south and east elevations of original building constructed in 1913

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
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Section number Photographs Page 21



Name: Modern Hotel

County and State: Jefferson County, MT

Photographer: Unknown

Date of Photograph: circa 1920

Location of Original: Jefferson Valley Museum, Digital copy on file at MT SHPO

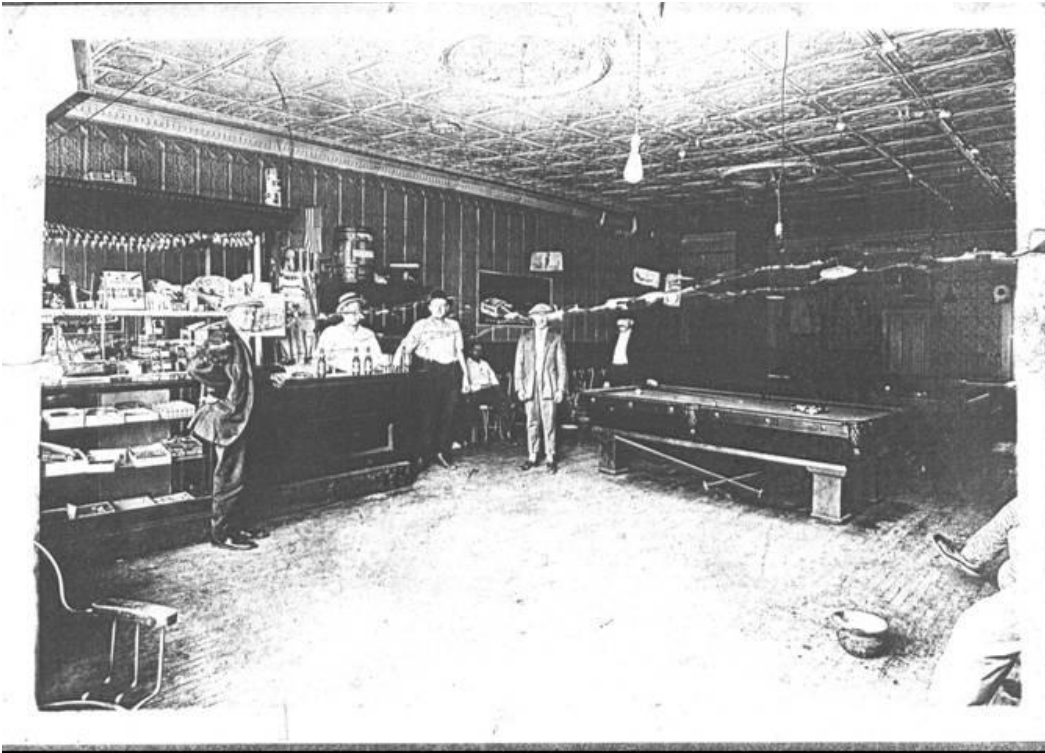
Description and View: Lot Borden seated inside the Modern Hotel Lobby (1919 addition)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Modern Hotel
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Section number Photographs Page 22



Name: Modern Hotel

County and State: Jefferson County, MT

Photographer: Unknown

Date of Photograph: Unknown

Location of Original: Jefferson Valley Museum, Digital copy on file at MT SHPO

Description and View: Interior view of Modern Hotel Billiard Room (original building)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Name: Modern Hotel

County and State: Jefferson County, MT

Photographer: Unknown

Date of Photograph: 1926

Location of Original: Jefferson Valley Museum, Digital copy on file at MT SHPO

Description and View: Hilda Borden standing in front of Modern Hotel

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
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Section number Photographs Page 24



Name: Modern Hotel

County and State: Jefferson County, MT

Photographer: Unknown

Date of Photograph: 1955

Location of Original: Jefferson Valley Museum, Digital copy on file at MT SHPO

Description and View: View to northwest of south elevation and Legion Avenue

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Section number Photographs Page 25



Name: Modern Hotel

County and State: Jefferson County, MT

Photographer: Unknown

Date of Photograph: 1965

Location of Original: Jefferson Valley Museum, Digital copy on file at MT SHPO

Description and View: Interior View of Borden's Café (1919 addition)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Section number Photographs Page 26

National Register Photolog

Photograph No. 1

Name of Property: Modern Hotel

City or Vicinity: Whitehall

County: Jefferson County State: Montana

Photographer: Doris S. Avery, historical consultant

Date Photographed: May 2011

Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file @ MT SHPO

Description of Photograph and View: Exterior view of south and east elevations, including 1913 building and 1919 and 1941 additions.

Photograph No. 2

Name of Property: Modern Hotel

City or Vicinity: Whitehall

County: Jefferson County State: Montana

Photographer: Doris S. Avery, historical consultant

Date Photographed: May 2011

Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file @ MT SHPO

Description of Photograph and View: Exterior view of south elevation, including 1919 and 1941 additions and 1913 building, facing east.

Photograph No. 3

Name of Property: Modern Hotel

City or Vicinity: Whitehall

County: Jefferson County State: Montana

Photographer: Doris S. Avery, historical consultant

Date Photographed: May 2011

Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file @ MT SHPO

Description of Photograph and View: Exterior view of south elevation of 1929 addition and west elevation of 1919 and 1941 additions.

Photograph No. 4

Name of Property: Modern Hotel

City or Vicinity: Whitehall

County: Jefferson County State: Montana

Photographer: Kate Hampton, MT SHPO

Date Photographed: May 2011

Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file @ MT SHPO

Description of Photograph and View: Exterior view of north and west elevations of 1913 building and 1919, 1929, and 1941 additions.

Photograph No. 5

Name of Property: Modern Hotel

City or Vicinity: Whitehall

County: Jefferson County State: Montana

Photographer: Kate Hampton, MT SHPO

Date Photographed: May 2011

Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file @ MT SHPO

Description of Photograph and View: Exterior view of original southeast canted entrance, 1913 building.

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Modern Hotel
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County and State
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Section number Photographs Page 27

Photograph No. 6

Name of Property: Modern Hotel

City or Vicinity: Whitehall

County: Jefferson County State: Montana

Photographer: Kate Hampton, MT SHPO

Date Photographed: May 2011

Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file @ MT SHPO

Description of Photograph and View: Interior view of first story of 1913 building, Bar, facing southwest.

Photograph No. 7

Name of Property: Modern Hotel

City or Vicinity: Whitehall

County: Jefferson County State: Montana

Photographer: Kate Hampton, MT SHPO

Date Photographed: May 2011

Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file @ MT SHPO

Description of Photograph and View: Interior view of second story of 1913 building, Hotel hall/common area, facing south.

Photograph No. 8

Name of Property: Modern Hotel

City or Vicinity: Whitehall

County: Jefferson County State: Montana

Photographer: Doris S. Avery, historical consultant

Date Photographed: May 2011

Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file @ MT SHPO

Description of Photograph and View: Interior view of second story of 1913 building, south center hotel room, facing south.

Photograph No. 9

Name of Property: Modern Hotel

City or Vicinity: Whitehall

County: Jefferson County State: Montana

Photographer: Doris S. Avery, historical consultant

Date Photographed: May 2011

Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file @ MT SHPO

Description of Photograph and View: Interior view of 1919 addition, Hotel Lobby, facing staircase on east wall.

Photograph No. 10

Name of Property: Modern Hotel

City or Vicinity: Whitehall

County: Jefferson County State: Montana

Photographer: Kate Hampton, MT SHPO

Date Photographed: May 2011

Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file @ MT SHPO

Description of Photograph and View: Interior view of 1919 addition, Hotel Lobby, facing northeast corner.

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Modern Hotel
Name of Property
Jefferson County, Montana
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Section number Photographs Page 28

Photograph No. 11

Name of Property: Modern Hotel

City or Vicinity: Whitehall

County: Jefferson County State: Montana

Photographer: Doris S. Avery, historical consultant

Date Photographed: May 2011

Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file @ MT SHPO

Description of Photograph and View: Interior view of 1919 addition, Restaurant, facing double mirror on north wall.

Photograph No. 12

Name of Property: Modern Hotel

City or Vicinity: Whitehall

County: Jefferson County State: Montana

Photographer: Doris S. Avery, historical consultant

Date Photographed: May 2011

Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file @ MT SHPO

Description of Photograph and View: Interior view of 1919 addition, Restaurant, facing southwest storefront window.

Photograph No. 13

Name of Property: Modern Hotel

City or Vicinity: Whitehall

County: Jefferson County State: Montana

Photographer: Kate Hampton, MT SHPO

Date Photographed: May 2011

Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file @ MT SHPO

Description of Photograph and View: Interior view of 1929 addition, Gingerbread House, facing north and west walls.

Photograph No. 14

Name of Property: Modern Hotel

City or Vicinity: Whitehall

County: Jefferson County State: Montana

Photographer: Doris S. Avery, historical consultant

Date Photographed: May 2011

Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file @ MT SHPO

Description of Photograph and View: Interior view of 1941 addition, Hotel, facing hallway from east to west.

Photograph No. 15

Name of Property: Modern Hotel

City or Vicinity: Whitehall

County: Jefferson County State: Montana

Photographer: Kate Hampton, MT SHPO

Date Photographed: May 2011

Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file @ MT SHPO

Description of Photograph and View: Interior view of 1941 addition, Hotel, north side hotel room, facing southwest corner.

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Modern Hotel
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Photograph No. 1

Name of Property: Modern Hotel

City or Vicinity: Whitehall

County: Jefferson County State: Montana

Photographer: Doris S. Avery, historical consultant

Date Photographed: May 2011

Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file @ MT SHPO

Description of Photograph and View: Exterior view of south and east elevations, including 1913 building and 1919 and 1941 additions.

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Modern Hotel
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Photograph No. 2

Name of Property: Modern Hotel

City or Vicinity: Whitehall

County: Jefferson County State: Montana

Photographer: Doris S. Avery, historical consultant

Date Photographed: May 2011

Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file @ MT SHPO

Description of Photograph and View: Exterior view of south elevation, including 1919 and 1941 additions and 1913 building, facing east.

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Modern Hotel
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Photograph No. 3

Name of Property: Modern Hotel

City or Vicinity: Whitehall

County: Jefferson County State: Montana

Photographer: Doris S. Avery, historical consultant

Date Photographed: May 2011

Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file @ MT SHPO

Description of Photograph and View: Exterior view of south elevation of 1929 addition and west elevation of 1919 and 1941 additions.

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Modern Hotel
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Photograph No. 4

Name of Property: Modern Hotel

City or Vicinity: Whitehall

County: Jefferson County State: Montana

Photographer: Kate Hampton, MT SHPO

Date Photographed: May 2011

Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file @ MT SHPO

Description of Photograph and View: Exterior view of north and west elevations of 1913 building and 1919, 1929, and 1941 additions.

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Modern Hotel
Name of Property
Jefferson County, Montana
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Photograph No. 5

Name of Property: Modern Hotel

City or Vicinity: Whitehall

County: Jefferson County State: Montana

Photographer: Kate Hampton, MT SHPO

Date Photographed: May 2011

Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file @ MT SHPO

Description of Photograph and View: Exterior view of original southeast canted entrance, 1913 building.

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Modern Hotel
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Jefferson County, Montana
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Section number Photographs Page 34



Photograph No. 6

Name of Property: Modern Hotel

City or Vicinity: Whitehall

County: Jefferson County State: Montana

Photographer: Kate Hampton, MT SHPO

Date Photographed: May 2011

Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file @ MT SHPO

Description of Photograph and View: Interior view of first story of 1913 building, Bar, facing southwest.

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Modern Hotel
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County and State
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Section number Photographs Page 35



Photograph No. 7

Name of Property: Modern Hotel

City or Vicinity: Whitehall

County: Jefferson County State: Montana

Photographer: Kate Hampton, MT SHPO

Date Photographed: May 2011

Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file @ MT SHPO

Description of Photograph and View: Interior view of second story of 1913 building, Hotel hall/common area, facing south.

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Modern Hotel
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Photograph No. 8

Name of Property: Modern Hotel

City or Vicinity: Whitehall

County: Jefferson County State: Montana

Photographer: Doris S. Avery, historical consultant

Date Photographed: May 2011

Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file @ MT SHPO

Description of Photograph and View: Interior view of second story of 1913 building, south center hotel room, facing south.

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Modern Hotel
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Jefferson County, Montana
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Section number Photographs Page 37



Photograph No. 9

Name of Property: Modern Hotel

City or Vicinity: Whitehall

County: Jefferson County State: Montana

Photographer: Doris S. Avery, historical consultant

Date Photographed: May 2011

Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file @ MT SHPO

Description of Photograph and View: Interior view of 1919 addition, Hotel Lobby, facing staircase on east wall.

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Modern Hotel
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Jefferson County, Montana
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Photograph No. 10

Name of Property: Modern Hotel

City or Vicinity: Whitehall

County Jefferson County State: Montana

Photographer: Kate Hampton, MT SHPO

Date Photographed: May 2011

Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file @ MT SHPO

Description of Photograph and View: Interior view of 1919 addition, Hotel Lobby, facing northeast corner.

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Modern Hotel
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Jefferson County, Montana
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Photograph No. 11

Name of Property: Modern Hotel

City or Vicinity: Whitehall

County: Jefferson County State: Montana

Photographer: Doris S. Avery, historical consultant

Date Photographed: May 2011

Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file @ MT SHPO

Description of Photograph and View: Interior view of 1919 addition, Restaurant, facing double mirror on north wall.

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Modern Hotel
Name of Property
Jefferson County, Montana
County and State
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Photograph No. 12

Name of Property: Modern Hotel

City or Vicinity: Whitehall

County: Jefferson County State: Montana

Photographer: Doris S. Avery, historical consultant

Date Photographed: May 2011

Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file @ MT SHPO

Description of Photograph and View: Interior view of 1919 addition, Restaurant, facing southwest storefront window.

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Modern Hotel
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Photograph No. 13

Name of Property: Modern Hotel

City or Vicinity: Whitehall

County: Jefferson County State: Montana

Photographer: Kate Hampton, MT SHPO

Date Photographed: May 2011

Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file @ MT SHPO

Description of Photograph and View: Interior view of 1929 addition, Gingerbread House, facing north and west walls.

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Modern Hotel
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Photograph No. 14

Name of Property: Modern Hotel

City or Vicinity: Whitehall

County: Jefferson County State: Montana

Photographer: Doris S. Avery, historical consultant

Date Photographed: May 2011

Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file @ MT SHPO

Description of Photograph and View: Interior view of 1941 addition, Hotel, facing hallway from east to west.

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Modern Hotel
Name of Property
Jefferson County, Montana
County and State
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Photograph No. 15

Name of Property: Modern Hotel

City or Vicinity: Whitehall

County: Jefferson County State: Montana

Photographer: Kate Hampton, MT SHPO

Date Photographed: May 2011

Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file @ MT SHPO

Description of Photograph and View: Interior view of 1941 addition, Hotel, north side hotel room, facing southwest corner.